



(Photo by Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl, MND-B PAO)

An Iraqi man creates table legs on a lathe in his workshop located off of Baghdad's Haifa Street, an area that had been a hot-bed of violence, May 15.

Baghdad in Brief

Terrorist Rocket Team: Four Killed, Six Captured

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Attack helicopter crews from the 1st "Attack" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, in a coordinated operation with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, killed four terrorists, apprehended six suspects and destroyed one van and multiple rockets that were aimed toward the International Zone in eastern Baghdad June 2.

The Apache helicopter team was

See **Rocket Team** Page 2

Quality of Life: Surge Affecting More than Security in Baghdad

**By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - The surge of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces into Baghdad neighborhoods is aimed at improving the security situation in the Iraqi capital. Yet, there are other programs benefiting by having more boots on the ground during Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon.

"The surge has assisted civil military operations by putting more Coalition eyes on the environment, so that we get a more responsive analysis of what essential services and economic development services are needed by the populace," said Lt. Col. John Rudolph, the assistant chief of staff of civil military operations for Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

Rudolph said civil military operations in MND-B's area of operation, which run the gamut from governance to agriculture to infrastructure to economic improvements, have already dedicated more than \$163 million of Commander's Emergency Relief Project (CERP) funds to projects all aimed at improving the quality of life for Iraqis living in and around Baghdad.

"This really is about improving the quality of life for the Iraqis," said Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, the deputy commanding general for support with MND-B. That "support" role not only touches the lives of the 50,000-plus troops working under MND-B, but also the Iraqi people. He said it's challenging to move ahead with quality of life initiatives in the face of extremist efforts to stop them.

"There is a perception that I've seen in every sector of this region we have responsibility for, when I talk to the Iraqis, that the Americans have the ability to put a man on the moon, and yet they can't provide us with electricity," Brooks said. "That whole idea of an expectation that we promised and haven't

delivered causes a great deal of problems."

Lights Out?

Most westerners and Americans, for sure, cannot conceive flicking on a light switch on the wall and having it click with no effect. Yet, Baghdad has never had electricity flowing 24 hours a day. Electricity, or the lack thereof, was also a tool used by the Ba'athist regime to reward or punish the population.

"You saw areas favored by Saddam and his regime see power longer throughout the day, but they still didn't get power 24/7," Rudolph said. "They still had to use what they called the 'generator men,' who were entrepreneurs who had their own generators and supplied power to local neighborhoods for the 'off power' periods, even during Saddam's period."

Rudolph said that providing power to Baghdad residents remains a priority, as witnessed by the 62 projects accounting for more than a quarter of the civil military operations funds dedicated this year - more than \$44 million. The challenge to get the lights on throughout the Iraqi capital remains an ongoing issue.

"It was an inefficient system to begin with and what we have done is by our electrification projects, in general, we've improved distribution so that the power that comes in is distributed more efficiently," Rudolph said. "However, the level of available power goes down. It goes out to more places, but it doesn't last as long."

Brooks said the provision of power to Baghdad neighborhoods remains a function of governance.

"Our effort here has to be more than a physical one, to not only find ways to improve those systems physically, but also have to work back through that governance effort to ensure that people who are in positions of responsibility in government are not

See **Quality of Life** Page 4

Face to Face

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Abdul Amir, deputy commander of the Karkh Command and commanding general of the 6th Iraqi Army Division (left), and Harker Heights, Texas native Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, commander, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, field questions during a joint press conference on clearing operations in Baghdad's Rashid District May 26, at the Coalition Press Information Center.



(Photo by Maj. Kirk Luedeke, 4-1 Inf.PAO)

Soldiers Take on Terrorist Rocket Team

Rocket Team

From Page 1

alerted to the area when terrorists were spotted setting up multiple rocket firing positions aimed at the International Zone.

"This operation against an enemy rocket team shows the awesome capability and

lethality my aircrews display every day," said Lt. Col. Christopher Walach, commander of the 1-227th Aviation Regiment.

In all, four terrorists were killed, one vehicle destroyed and 10 rockets destroyed in the Apache Longbow engagement. There was no collateral damage observed during the

engagement.

Following the destruction of the equipment by the attack helicopters, Soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade pursued six suspects observed fleeing the scene of the foiled rocket attack, tailed the suspects to a residence inside Sadr City and apprehended them. The six suspects

were held for questioning.

"These intelligence-driven raids by the Coalition are designed to go after extremists responsible for indirect fire attacks in Baghdad against innocent civilians in recent months," said Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl, spokesman for Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

gahwa

Defined:
tea shop

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 109
Low: 80



Tomorrow

High: 110
Low: 80



Wednesday

High: 108
Low: 78

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Editor: Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Shea Butler, Pfc. Ben Gable and Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Capt. Matthew Angliss

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The *Daily Charge* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Field Artillerymen Assist in Improvement of Educational Opportunities for Baghdad Youth

By Capt. Matthew Angliss
1-7 FA Regt.

BAGHDAD - A school in western Baghdad is re-opened after Coalition Forces, along with local community leaders, sponsored its renovation.

Only three months ago the teachers at the Al Swaib School in western Baghdad were working under increasingly trying conditions. Their classrooms were overcrowded, the roof leaked in several places and school supplies for their students were scarce, at best. When the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, took over responsibility for the security in the area nine months ago, they sat down with the local leaders and discussed the community's concerns.

"They immediately identified their education program as the most important issue in their area," said Capt. Timothy Lynch, a former platoon leader in the battalion. When the battalion walked through all of the schools in the area to meet with the teachers and students, they instantly recognized issues and problems in the structures which they could help to improve over the coming months.

"Not long after that, a contractor came to us who listened to our proposed plans for renovation," remembers Capt. Warrick Craig of 1-7th FA. Craig was one of several officers who helped to first put the project into motion. "The contractor, Sheik Saad, was a local sheik who told us he would employ 40 other men from the area as



(Photo by Capt. Matthew Angliss, 1-7 FA Regt.)

Lt. Col. Michael Griffith, commander of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and local residents and teachers look on as Sheik Raad cuts the ribbon at the gate of the Al Swaib School in western Baghdad, officially marking the completion of a three-month renovation project.

workers to complete the job."

Employing the local populace with these types of projects is always a battalion emphasis.

"This way we're not only helping to rebuild their school, but we're also giving back to the community by creating these temporary jobs," Lynch said, "which is a very welcome source of income to the people in this area. It's like a double blessing."

The battalion is not unfamiliar with these types of work projects to improve the local infrastructure and employ the nearby communities to carry out the work. This is the second school renovation the field artillerymen have financially assisted in the past two months.

The original project contractor, Sheik Saad, was killed only a month after work began on the school. Not one to go back on their word and realizing how important this work was for his community, Saad's brother, Raad, agreed to see the undertaking to the end.

By May 30 the work was finished and the 1-7th FA's

battalion commander, Lt. Col. Michael Griffith, was on hand to review the craftsmanship and observe the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Raad was already at the school, making final preparations when the battalion commander arrived. Following a brief greeting, he guided Griffith through the two completely new classrooms and showed off the other improvements, including a new generator, which now gives the school the capability to be completely independent of city power, when necessary. Renovations also included extensive repairs on the roof of the school, completely restored bathrooms and two new computers.

"You really can't understand how good we have it as Americans until you come to a place like this," said Capt. Christopher Piskai, the battalion's intelligence officer. "These computers may be the only ones the students at this school will have the opportu-

nity to use during their education."

Other improvements, like the new classrooms, provide secondary benefits to the school. Not only do they afford a new space for students to go to class every day, but they also lighten what was once the cramped area of the old classrooms. Teachers can focus more of their time on each individual student.

"Instead of having a classroom with 40 to 50 kids inside having to struggle to maintain everyone's focus, students now benefit from a little more personal attention," Piskai said.

All of these things help to improve the educational setting at the school which, Lynch said in the long run will improve the quality of education for nearly 450 students at the school.

"These are just great examples of people coming together to improve their communities and giving us the privilege to be a part of it," he said.

Coalition, Iraqis Emphasize Quality of Life

Quality of Life

From Page 1

sectarian and are not biased in the delivery of essential services to all people," Brooks noted.

Success Stories

Improved security in some areas of the city has allowed life to flourish for some Baghdad residents. Temporary barriers erected throughout the city have created what military officials call "safe markets" and "safe neighborhoods." Rudolph said the market areas have benefited from the temporary barriers, keeping suicide car bombers at bay while allowing commerce to continue.

The marketplace in the Rusafa District in what is known as "Old Baghdad."

"Shoppers feel much safer going into the market now and they've actually seen an increase in the number of local citizens using that market," Rudolph said. "It's a perception, an attitude that the stigma of the random violence has lessened."

The Doura Market is often a stop for visiting dignitaries to Baghdad in the southern Rashid District. The 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team from Fort Hood, Texas conducted the initial assessment of the area and started the revitalization project there.

Doura Market, Rudolph said, went from an unorganized street market of only a few dozen vendors to a thriving market place with more than 200 sellers. He said the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kan., now operates in Rashid, and even more improvements are underway.

"4-1st Infantry is following up in their footsteps with a barrier plan just like Rusafa," Rudolph said. "The shoppers (there) feel much safer in that environment. They've got solar-powered lights to provide security in the area. They have host nation security forces doing random patrols of the area, and because of these security measures more shops have opened up."

Haifa Street in the city's center, west of the Tigris River, was once known as a hotbed of extremist activity. It was a battle ground for the 1st Cavalry Division when

they operated in Baghdad in 2004-05, and again earlier this year.

"We've turned that around," Brooks said. "Now, we have a thriving market area that is starting to grow and a revitalization process that will make the Iraqis really proud and recognize that things have improved."

All things start with security, Brooks said, but quality of life initiatives have been brought to life in areas where the neighborhood and district advisory councils have worked in harmony for the good of their constituents.

"It's where people in the neighborhood, people in the district recognize that they have needs and they're the ones who should represent the people in that area," Brooks said. "Mansour has a very active district council that is functioning very, very well, and our recent security operations have enhanced that, so they feel more and more secure."

"They still remain periodically threatened, though," Brooks said. "You have to recognize that people who are performing well, especially in harmony, are often targeted by extremists who don't want to see good governance to ever form here."

Short Term vs Long Term

CERP funds are a "band-aid," Rudolph said, a way for Coalition Forces to provide immediate aid where needed. But MND-B, in conjunction with the State Department, is looking at long-term solutions to many of the issues facing the residents of the Iraqi capital.

"They use training programs for business practices and they also do micro-grants and micro-loans, but those are 'payments in kind,' Rudolph explained. "If a business needed, say, a cash register to be able to transact business activities, they wouldn't get the money to buy it, they would get a cash register. It's the items they would need, not the cash. As much as security has improved, we still don't want cash-flow going into the hands of the wrong parties. That's the best means of addressing it."

Brooks said MND-B has shifted its focus to long-term investments, versus short-term "band-aids" over the past three months.

"There's been progress, but the approach that has been taken over the last

several years for divisions like the 1st Cavalry Division was to find problems and fix them, and do it quickly," Brooks said. "We've had success in that. But the reality is that it doesn't leave an enduring systemic effect, so we've shifted our focus here over the last three months to look at the holistic system sewage on the west side of the river."

By looking at the broader picture, and engaging the local, district and provincial governments, Brooks said long-term progress is possible.

"What's changed, I think over that last few years, is how much the larger infrastructure has been revitalized," Brooks said. "Water pipes have been replaced, electrical transformers have been installed, but it's that last 100 meters worth of the service that really still has to become focused. Then people will really recognize a difference."

The Heart of a Soldier

While on one hand, extremist elements are attempting to create chaos in the city streets and deter progress and quality of life initiatives, Brooks pointed in the other direction, to the American Soldier, and attributes much of the progress made to date in the Iraqi capital to the dedication of troops putting their boots on the ground to interact with residents and local officials.

"We wouldn't have any of these successes, we'd have no progress if it weren't for the contributions of our troops who are out there," Brooks said. "We ask an awful lot of our Soldiers who are deployed over here. Certainly, we know we put them into harm's way to accomplish whatever mission we set out to do. But their energy, their passion, their willingness to keep trying in the face of deliberate set backs at the hands of the enemy or at the hands of sometimes the Iraqis themselves, they're out there every day and they keep moving forward."

"In all these areas, not only security, but in governance it may be that the first, best way for people to come together is because an American Soldier encouraged a district council member to sit in the same room with another," Brooks added. "And governance begins, then, with the passion and the heart of the Soldier in this country."